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BOROUGH OF POOLE.

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Port Health

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

On the Health of the Port of Poole

FOR THE YEAR

1957.



PART II

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1957. (acting as Port Health Authority)

Chairman

Alderman D. A. HAYNES J., P.,

Vice-Chairman

Councillor R. C. Hart.

Aldermen:

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G. BRAVERY

J. BRIGHT J.P.,
A. B. HAYNES J.P.,
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Councillors:

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R. BILLET
MRS J.D. COLES.
V.A. EVANS
MRS E.M. HICKINSON J.P.,

S.D. POLLARD
MRS A. WILLIS.

OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Clerk to the Port Health Authority:

J. C. HILLIER Town Clerk

Medical Officer of Health:

JAMES HUTTON M.D., D.P.H.,

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

D. S. PARKER M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Port Health Inspector.

ROBERT LEGGAT, F.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Port Health Inspector

C.B.T. GLOVER, M.A.P.H.I.

Rodent Officer.

G.W. SKEGGS.

Senior Clerk: J. WAY.

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee acting for the Port Health Authority.

I submit for your information and consideration my Annual Report as Port Medical Officer of Health for the year 1957.

The report is made in accordance with Article 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951. As a result of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952, the Minister of Health has reviewed the form and scope of the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health and in Port Form 20 enclosed with Circular 33/52 dated 6th November, 1952, he prescribes the form and sequence which the reports should follow.

One requirement of the Minister is that the information required by Sections I.V.VI.VIII,XLV,XV and XVI (all marked with asterisk) need only be given in full every fifth year and for the intermediate years only the changes which have occurred during the year covered by the report need be included. The full information required in these sections is set out in the annual report for 1955 and therefore this year only changes are recorded.

In presenting this report I have pleasure in taking the opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Harbour Master, Captain C.H. Horn, and the Officers of H.M. Customs for their ready co-operation and help during the year, and to the Port Health Inspector, Mr. R. Leggat and his Deputy, Mr.C.H.T.Glover, for their willing assistance and interest in the work.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES HUTTON.

Port Medical Officer of Health.

February, 1958.

THE PORT OF POOLE

Constitution of the Port Health Authority

By an order of the Local Government Board dated 21st September 1887, and an amending order dated 27th February, 1909 a Port Sanitary Authority was constituted to exercise the powers and functions assigned by the Order.

The style "Port Sanitary Authority" was changed to "Port Health Authority" in 1936.

The Port Health Authority is the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough, acting by the Council.

Limits of Jurisdiction.

The present limits of jurisdiction were fixed in 1909, as follows :-

"The jurisdiction of the said Port Sanitary Authority shall extend to all that part of the said Port of Poole aforesaid which lies to landward of a line drawn from the seaward extremity of the eastern boundary of the Borough of Poole to the seaward extremity of the headland known as Standfast Point; together with the waters of the said part of the Port, and all docks, basins, harbours, creeks, rivers, channels, roads, bays and streams within that part of the said Port, and the place or places which may from time to time be appointed as the Customs Boarding Station or Stations for that part of the said Port, and the place or places for the time being appointed for the mooring or anchoring of ships for the said part of the said Port under any regulations for the prevention of the spread of diseases issued under the authority of the Statutes in that behalf, and for the purposes of any such Regulations as aforesaid, shall also extend to any ship which in pursuance thereof, or of any directions given thereunder shall be moored or anchored at the place appointed thereunder as aforesaid, or which shall be on its way thither"

.Port Facilities

Poole is chiefly a cargo port, the majority of the vessels being engaged in the coastal transport of coal, oil and petrol, though there is also a regular traffic in timber from continental countries. During the summer the port is the base for pleasure steamers operating between the local seaside resorts, but this is the only passenger traffic. Fishing is still carried on from the port, though only during the sprat season are landings heavy. The harbour is one of the great yachting centres of Britain, and the building, servicing and repair of yachts and other boats is one of the industries of the port.

The public quay accommodation consists of 3,000 feet frontage, i.e.

Hamworthy quay	500 feet at 15ft low water ordinary tide			
Town Quay	1000 feet at 16ft	"	"	"
	1000 feet at 15-10ft	"	"	"
	500 feet shallow berthing (for yachts)			

There are also some 3,500 feet of private wharves, including 1,000 feet of wharfing constructed in 1950 by the Central Electricity Authority for the power station at Hamworthy. All the public quays are serviced by railways. Unloading equipment consists of two 3-ton electric travelling cranes belonging to the Harbour Commissioners and four electric cranes and two steam cranes belonging to private firms. There are, in addition, two privately-owned coal transporters each capable of dealing with between 1,000 and 1,200 tons of coal per day. Ship repairing facilities include seven yards capable of carrying out repairs to ships and yachts.

There is in the harbour an extensive safe anchorage. The depth of the water at the harbour bar is thirteen feet at mean low water springs and the range varies from about 7 feet at springs to a few inches at neaps. Both the flood and ebb tides run at about three-quarters of a knot at the bar. At the haven entrance the maximum is $4\frac{1}{2}$ knots with about $3\frac{1}{2}$ knots for Brownsea Roads while in the rest of the harbour 2 knots is seldom exceeded.

The telegraphic address of the Port Health Authority is registered as "Portelth Poole".

Address and telephone number of Medical Officer of Health:-

Office: Public Health Department,
Municipal Buildings, Poole.
Poole 393.

Home: 23, Pearce Avenue,
Parkstone, Poole.
Parkstone 4140.

* I. STAFF.

Two changes in staff of the Port Health Authority occurred during the year.

Mr. C.A.Trim, Deputy Port Health Inspector, retired on 31st December, 1956, and was succeeded by Mr. C.P.T.Clover, Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, Borough of Poole.

Mrs.B.Burchett, Office Clerk, resigned 31st October, 1957 was succeeded by Mr. J. Way, Senior Clerk, Public Health Department, Borough of Poole.

II. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

Table B.

Ships from.	Number	Tonnage.	Number inspected		Number of ships reported as having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By Port Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports	201	84,181	1	136	1
Coastwise	985	362,583	-	156	-
Total	1186	446,764	1	292	1

Does not include yachts.

III. CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR.

Table C

Passenger Traffic

Number of passengers INWARDS - Negligible.

Number of passengers OUTWARDS - Negligible.

Cargo Traffic

Principal IMPORTS - Timber, coal, grain, animal feeding stuffs, fertilisers, hardboard, wood pulp, oyster shell grit, onions.

Principal EXPORTS - Barley, ball clay, coke, breeze, spent oxide, caravans.

Principal ports from which ships arrive -

Channel Isles ports, Rotterdam, Antwerp, Bremen, Hamburg.

French north coast ports, Brest, Roscoff, Bordeaux, Corunna, Dakar, Scandinavian and Baltic ports.

IV. INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There is no inland barge traffic in the port.

6 V. Water Supply.

1. Source of supply for the district and shipping.

The water supply for the port and shipping is that from the town mains provided by the Poole Waterworks Undertaking from hydrants on the quay. It is a softened, filtered and chlorinated water of high bacterial purity.

2. Reports of tests for contamination.

The town supply was sampled every two or three days throughout the year and every sample was reported as "Class I - highly satisfactory".

During the year 20 samples of water were taken direct from the hydrants used by shipping at the quays. Of these samples 12 were reported as Class 1, 4 as Class 3 and 4 as Class 4. As the mains supply was beyond suspicion the eight unsatisfactory results were most certainly all due to surface water contamination of the hydrant boxes and after cleansing and disinfection of the hydrants subsequent samples were satisfactory.

16 samples of water supplies on ships using the port regularly were taken for bacteriological examination. 13 were reported as Class 1, 1 as Class 3 and 2 as Class 4. The three unsatisfactory samples were all obtained at the same time from one ship and after cleansing and disinfection of the ship's tanks subsequent samples were satisfactory.

3. Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

Hydrants and hoses are cleansed and flushed and connections disinfected regularly by the Waterworks Undertaking and instructions have been issued that all hydrants and hoses must be cleansed and flushed before each use.

On the quays water hydrants are fixed in boxes at ground level and it is almost impossible to keep the boxes free from road surface water. The replacement of hydrant boxes by fixed standpipes presents many practical problems on open public quays such as is the case at Poole, but with the help of Mr. R.S. Rendle, the Waterworks Engineer and Manager, an experimental type of pillar standpipe has been designed and with the agreement of the Water Undertaking and the Harbour Commissioners, one of these pillars will be erected to determine its practicability for this purpose.

4. Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and power of control by the Authority.

No motor boats were in use in the harbour during 1957.

*** VI. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952**

No change

VII. SMALLPOX.

1. Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district.

Crabwood Smallpox Hospital, Nr. Winchester, Hants.

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital.

Transport of smallpox cases would be carried out by the Ambulance Service of the Dorset County Council operating from the Poole Ambulance Depot.

The vaccinal state of the 14 ambulance personnel at this depot is that 10 were last vaccinated in 1957, 1 in 1955, 1 in 1953, 1 is excused further vaccination and 1 has refused vaccination.

3. Names of smallpox consultants available.

Dr. George Chesney, Poole. (Resigned 7.2.57)

Succeeded by Dr. A. F. Turner, County Hall, Dorchester

4. Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.

Suspected material is sent to:

Dr. F. O. MacCallum,
Virus Reference Laboratory,
Central Public Health Laboratory,
Colindale, London N.W.9.

Tel: No. Colindale 6041.

*** VIII. VENEREAL DISEASE.**

Facilities for diagnosis and treatment for seamen suffering from Venereal Diseases are provided at two clinics as follows :-

Poole General Hospital, Longfleet Road, Poole -
Tuesdays and Fridays, 5 p.m.

Royal Victoria Hospital, Shelley Road, Boscombe -
Wednesdays and Saturdays 4.30 p.m.

During inspections of ships inquiries are made as to the presence of venereal disease among seamen and information as to the facilities available for treatment are given to the persons concerned. Printed cards are available for this purpose and display notices are also exhibited in the vicinity of the Port.

IX. CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES
ON SHIPS.

TABLE D.

Category.	Disease.	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers.	Crew.	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	Chickenpox	-	1	1
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been dis- posed of before arrival.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

X. OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS.

None.

XI. MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE.

None necessary.

XII. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

Poole is a "Designated Approved Port" for the issue of Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates in accordance with Article 17 of the International Sanitary Regulations, 1951 and Articles 19, 20 and 21 of the Port Health (Ships) Regulations 1952 are enforced in the Port. Both the Port Health Inspector and the Deputy Port Health Inspector have been trained in deratisation procedure.

1. During routine inspections of ships by the Port Health Inspectors masters and crew are interrogated as to the presence of rats and the ship in general and the crew's quarters in particular are examined for evidence of infestation. Where evidence is found or suspected a detailed search of the ship (including the holds) is made by the Rodent Officer who endeavours to secure one or more rats for bacteriological and pathological examination. Whenever a Deratting or Deratting Exemption Certificate is found to be out of date, or a certificate is needed, a detailed inspection and search of the ship is carried out jointly by the Port Health Inspector and the Rodent Officer before a certificate is issued or renewed. A similar procedure is adopted before the issue or renewal of Rodent Control Certificates for coastal ships.
2. Bacteriological and pathological examinations of rodents are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Bournemouth, (Director G.J.G. King M.B., B.Ch.,)

2. (contd.)

In no instance were rats found on a ship inspected in the port during the year.

3. Small infestations of rats on ships are dealt with directly by the Rodent Officer, using standard trapping and baiting methods. Major infestations requiring large scale fumigations are carried out by any one of the commercial contractors on the Authority's list, the arrangements being made direct by the owners or agents.
4. Every effort is made by the Port Health Inspectors to secure improvement in the rat-proofing of ships where harbourage is found on inspection but, except in the cases of those ships based on the Port, very few opportunities arise for improvement of structures owing to the very short stay in port of the ships.

TABLS E

RODENTS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

C A T E G O R Y										No.
Black rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Brown rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	N11.
Species not known	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	N11
Sent for examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	N11
Infected with plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	N11

The number of rats destroyed during the year in warehouses, etc., on the quays was 148.

TABLS F
DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

No. of Derattling Certificates issued		Number of De- rattling Exemp- tion Certificates issued.		Total Certificates Issued	
After fumigation with H.C.N.	Other fumigant (State Method)	After Trapp- -ing	After Poison -ing	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6
					7
N11	N11	N11	N11	N11	33
					33

RODENT CONTROL CERTIFICATES.

One Rodent Control Certificate was issued during the year.

XIII. Inspection of Ships for Nuisances.

TABLE G.

Inspection and Notices.

Nature and Number of Inspections.	Notices served		Result of serving Notices.
	Statutory Notices.	Other Notices.	
Routine Inspections	292	Nil	24 Abated 8; Outstanding when ship left, 16;
Re-inspections	59	-	-
Re water supplies	13	-	2 Abated 2
Infectious Diseases	3	-	-
Searches by Rodent Officer ...	33	-	-
TOTAL	400	-	26 Abated 10 Outstanding 16.

* XIV. Public Health (Shell Fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948

Shell-fishing is carried on commercially in the harbour on a small scale. In the past takings have been mainly of cockles, with some periwinkles and whelks. Cockles are chiefly obtained in commercial quantities from the southern and western parts of the harbour, areas which routine sampling over the past seven years has shown to be free from serious pollution. On the other hand members of the general public frequently gather cockles from the developed and more built-up northern and eastern shores of the harbour where occasional pollution is more likely during periods of heavy rainfall owing to the presence of several sewer stormwater overflows.

Since 1951, with the co-operation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Experimental Station and the Southern Sea Fisheries Committee, several beds of oysters have been cultivated experimentally in the western areas of the harbour and small quantities of the oysters have been sold after purification and bacteriological examination. One research group, the Poole Technical Group, is carrying out experimental work in the purification of oysters in a tank fitted with ultra-violet ray lamps.

Two or three years ago efforts were made by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Experimental Station to resuscitate the cultivation of mussels in the harbour. A cleansing tank and a heat treatment plant were established in the area, but after one season's operation these closed down and the project appears to be moribund at present.

Mussels are gross feeders and some of the largest beds are situated in the eastern area of the harbour which may be liable to pollution from the discharge of sewage into Poole Bay. No prohibited area has been prescribed in the harbour but observation and sampling is being maintained to determine the extent of pollution involved. At the same time it is hoped that arrangements will be made with the Southern Sea Fisheries Committee to exclude the eastern end of the harbour from any licences granted for commercial dredging for mussels except for the purpose of relaying, cleansing or heat treatment.

Results of bacteriological examination of shellfish obtained from Poole Harbour in 1957 :-

Shellfish of Samples.	No.	Class			Maximum number of faecal coli per 1 ml of shellfish in any sample.
		I	II	III	
		Satisfactory.			
		0 faecal coli per 1 ml of shellfish	1-5 faecal coli per 1 ml of shellfish	6-14 faecal coli per 1 ml of shellfish	15 or over faecal coli per 1 ml of shellfish.
Cockles.	48	30	9	4	5
Mussels.	28	12	4	4	8
Periwinkles.	18	14	4	-	-
Oysters.	22	5	10	7	-
Total.	116	61	27	15	13

x XV. Medical inspection of Aliens.

Not applicable.

x XVI. Miscellaneous.

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

The Town Mortuary is available near the Quay and no difficulty would arise in arranging burial in one of the local Authority Cemeteries.

Pollution of the Harbour.

The waters of Poole Harbour are subject to some degree of sewage pollution from a number of sources. Probably the principal source is the discharge into Poole Bay of the sewage of the three towns situated on the shores of the bay, but the extent to which this affects the waters of the harbour has not been determined. However, the three towns now appear to be committed to sewerage schemes which will ultimately result in the diversion of the sewage of their areas away from the sea front for treatment elsewhere. The first stages of the Poole and Bournemouth schemes are already under construction.

During the past four or five years the condition of sewage effluents being discharged into Poole Bay from sewage disposal works in the area has given rise to considerable anxiety, but the first stage of the new sewage disposal works at Broadstone was completed and came into operation during 1957, and when the next stage, involving the closure of the existing disposal works at Hamworthy has been carried out a very considerable improvement in the position can be expected.

A number of other sources of pollution were known or suspected and a committee of technical officers of the Poole Borough and Port Health Authority, the Poole Harbour Board and the Southern Sea Fisheries Committee was formed to investigate these. Already as a result of the activities of this Committee a number of sources of pollution have been, or are being eliminated and others are under investigation.

